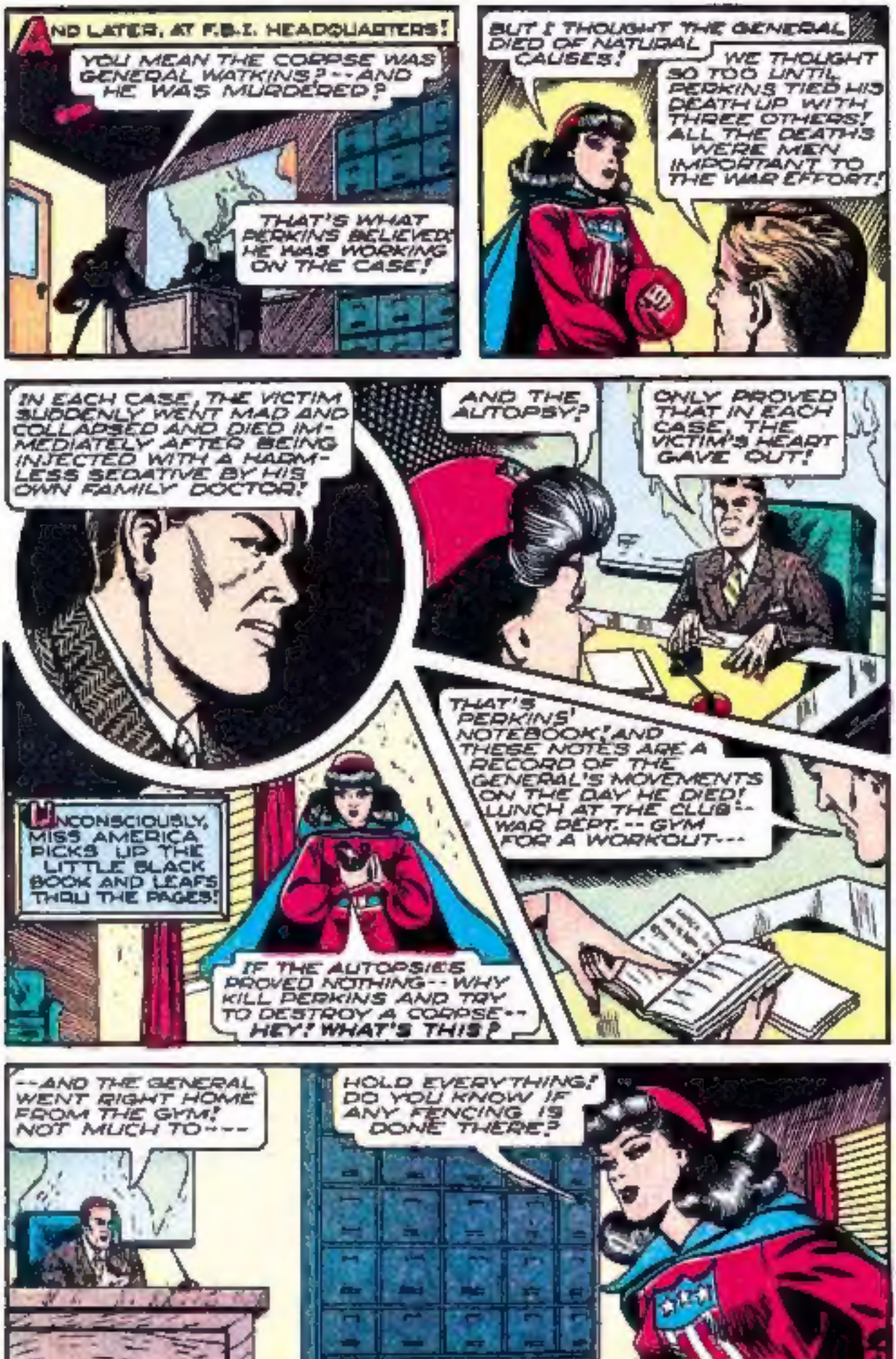
Miss AMERICA
WILL THIS MASTER OF DEATH SHATTER THE WHOLE ALLIED WAR EFFORT? WHY IS THIS FIEND KILLING OFF THE HIGH COMMANDERS? FOLLOW MISS AMERICA AS SHE BATTLES SINGLE-HANDED, A MAD MAN WITH A MAD SCHEME IN THE "THRUST of DEATH"
DRIVING ALONG A SUBURBAN ROAD OUTSIDE WARTIME WASHINGTON, MADELINE JOYCE IS SUDDENLY JOLTED OUT OF A PLEASANT DAY-DREAM BY A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION!
WHAT THE--!? THAT HOUSE! A MASS OF FLAME! IF THERE ARE ANY PEOPLE THERE, THEY'LL BE TRAPPED! COME ON, MISS AMERICA, THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE!
BOOM

JUST AS MISS AMERICA REACHES THE DOOMED HOUSE, TWO FURTIVE FIGURES ATTACK HER!
STOP HER! SHE MUSTN'T GET IN!
OH-OH! SOMETHING'S REALLY WRONG HERE!
OH--THE OTHER RAT IS PULLING A GUN!
ALMOST THE SAME INSTANT, MISS AMERICA WHIRLS FROM THE FALLING THUG AND LASHES OUT WITH HER FOOT!
MY BALLET SPECIAL!
BUT-- MISS AMERICA DUCKS BACK IN SURPRISE AS A SERIES OF LIGHTNING THRUSTS THROW HER OFF STRIDE---!
WHAT TH--?! HEY! HE'S TRYING TO PUT OUT MY EYES!
AND BY THE TIME MISS AMERICA SPRINGS TO HER FEET, HER TWO ASSAILANTS ARE GONE!
WHEW! THAT FELLOW SURE COULD DO THINGS WITH A CANE!
CAN'T GO AFTER THEM! TRYING TO STOP ME PROVES THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THIS HOUSE!
2

GOSH! A CORPSE AND A MAN OVERCOME BY SMOKE! MUST GET HIM OUT BEFORE THIS PLACE COLLAPSES!
THE MAN REVIVES-- AND---
HURRY! GET-- BODY OUT-- IMPORTANT!
BUT-WHY? IT'S SUICIDE TO GO BACK IN THERE AND--- HE'S DEAD ANYWAY!
I'M F.B.I.-- BODY-- WILL PROVE--MURDER!
SO THAT'S THE REASON FOR THE FIRE! O.K., MR. G-MAN--- WE'LL GET THE CORPSE!
FIGHTING HER WAY THRU THE SMOKE AND FLAME, MISS AMERICA SUCCEEDS IN RESCUING THE DEAD MAN JUST AS THE HOUSE COLLAPSES!
THIS IS A NEW ROLE FOR ME, SAVING A DEAD MAN! HEY! MY G-MAN MUST HAVE PASSED OUT AGAIN---HE WAS SITTING UP---
DEAD! THOSE MURDERING RATS DID IT WHILE I WAS BRINGING OUT THE CORPSE! I'LL GO TO F.B.I. HEADQUARTERS AND FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT--!
3


AND LATER, AT F.B.I. HEADQUARTERS!
YOU MEAN THE CORPSE WAS GENERAL WATKINS?--AND HE WAS MURDERED?
THAT'S WHAT PERKINS BELIEVED! HE WAS WORKING ON THE CASE!
BUT I THOUGHT THE GENERAL DIED OF NATURAL CAUSES!
WE THOUGHT SO TOO UNTIL PERKINS TIED HIS DEATH UP WITH THREE OTHERS! ALL THE DEATHS WERE MEN IMPORTANT TO THE WAR EFFORT!
IN EACH CASE, THE VICTIM SUDDENLY WENT MAD AND COLLAPSED AND DIED IMMEDIATELY AFTER BEING INJECTED WITH A HARMLESS SEDATIVE BY HIS OWN FAMILY DOCTOR!
AND THE AUTOPSY?
ONLY PROVED THAT IN EACH CASE, THE VICTIM'S HEART GAVE OUT!
UNCONSCIOUSLY, MISS AMERICA PICKS UP THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK AND LEAFS THRU THE PAGES!
IF THE AUTOPSIES PROVED NOTHING--WHY KILL PERKINS AND TRY TO DESTROY A CORPSE--HEY! WHAT'S THIS?
THAT'S PERKINS' NOTEBOOK! AND THESE NOTES ARE A RECORD OF THE GENERAL'S MOVEMENTS ON THE DAY HE DIED! LUNCH AT THE CLUB!-- WAR DEPT.-- GYM FOR A WORKOUT---
--AND THE GENERAL WENT RIGHT HOME FROM THE GYM! NOT MUCH TO---
HOLD EVERYTHING! DO YOU KNOW IF ANY FENCING IS DONE THERE?

YES, THEY FENCE THERE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO GET A FENCING LESSON FROM A RAT THAT DOES TRICKS WITH A CANE!
THAT'S THE GYM DOWN THERE! NOW TO FIND OUT IF THE OTHER VICTIMS WENT IN FOR FENCING TOO!
HELLO! UNUSUAL TO DIP THE POINT OF A FOIL INTO A LIQUID, ISN'T IT?
VASS IS --!? YOU?!
THE WILY FENCING MASTER DRAWS MISS AMERICA'S ATTENTION AWAY FROM TWO BURLY FIGURES LEAPING TOWARD HER!
SO I WAS RIGHT! YOU ARE THE RAT WITH THE CANE AND A NAZI TO BOOT!
THIS TIME IT IS NO CANE THAT WILL PICK OUT YOUR EYES!
MISS AMERICA SENSES THE THREAT BEHIND HER, BUT WHIRLS A SPLIT SECOND TOO LATE TO WARD OFF BOTH ATTACKERS!
BOP!
WE WAITED PATIENTLY FOR YOU TO REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS! I WANTED YOU TO BE AWARE OF YOUR FATE! THE PISTOLS HAVE SILENCERS! I DON'T WISH TO ALARM AN IMPORTANT CLIENT WAITING IN THE GYM! A CERTAIN GEN. SUMMERS!
GOSH! HE'S THE BRAIN PLANNING THESE MURDERS!
5.

AFTER YOU ARE DEAD, I WILL GIVE GEN. SUMMERS A FENCING LESSON--- SUDDENLY THIS BUTTON SLIPS OFF AND ---HA, HA, HA, HA!
(GROAN) I MUST WARN THE GENERAL!
SO THAT'S HOW YOU DO IT? DIP THE FOIL IN POISON!
POISON? HA-HA! THAT'S TOO CRUDE--WHO'S THAT??
HOW ABOUT MY FENCING LESSON?
SORRY, GENERAL! YES, BE WITH YOU IN A SECOND FOR YOUR FINAL LESSON!
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE DISTRACTION OF HER GUARDS BY THE CONVERSATION AT THE DOOR, MISS AMERICA EXPLODES INTO ACTION!
LOOKOUT, GENERAL! RUN!
WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE?
WITH MISS AMERICA BATTLING TWO NAZI KILLERS, THE FENCING MASTER ATTACKS THE ASTOUNDED GENERAL, WHO BARELY GETS HIS SWORD UP IN TIME TO PARRY A DEADLY THRUST!
HA! YOU WILL DIE BEFORE THAT SHE-DEVIL CAN COME TO YOUR AID!
AROUND YOU GO, RAT, AND TAKE WHAT IS MEANT FOR ME!
6

THE NAZI FENCING MASTER SUDDENLY SENDS THE GENERAL'S SWORD FLYING---!
GOOD GOSH! HE'S GOT THE GENERAL DOWN!
MISS AMERICA STREAKS FOR THE NAZI JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME!
HIT HIM TOO HARD -- OH-OH! HE'S GETTING AWAY!
GOSH, I NAILED HIM! AND I DIDN'T KNOW I COULD HANDLE A SWORD!
LATER--BACK AT F.B.I. HEADQUARTERS--
YOU SAY THIS LIQUID THE FOIL WAS DIPPED IN, DIDN'T KILL THE VICTIMS?
NO, NOT DIRECTLY! BUT WHEN IT CAME IN CONTACT WITH MORPHINE, WHICH WAS THE SEDATIVE INJECTED BY THE FAMILY DOCTOR, IT'S REACTION WAS DEADLY AND KILLED WITHIN SECONDS!
SO THAT'S WHY HE DIDN'T WANT A SECOND AUTOPSY ON GENERAL WATKINS AND WANTED TO BURN HIS BODY SO NO ONE COULD WONDER ABOUT A SWORD WOUND AND INVESTIGATE! WELL, HIS SWORD PLAY IS OVER!
THE END

MARVEL

MYSTERY COMICS

APRIL NO. 71